



#### PSI Colloquium, May 11, 2023

### Dynamic Gravity: From a crazy idea to high precision measurements

#### Jürg Dual, Emeritus since Aug. 2022

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# **Towards High Precision Measurements of Dynamic Gravity**

- 1. Introduction: Motivation and History
  - Theory
  - Experiments
- 2. Beam-Beam Configuration
- 3. Rotating Bars as Transmitter
- 4. Current Efforts and Improvements
- 5. Conclusions and Outlook

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# **Our Gravity Project: Motivation and History (1)**

**1991:** First idea of a dynamical transmitter – receiver gravity experiment during preparing the introductory lecture at ETH with the title

"Triumph und Krise der Mechanik"

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Dynamical means:
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Much higher frequencies than previous experiments (which are "static", mHz) but remain in near field ( r <<  $\lambda$ =c/f )

What can we measure in the laboratory, which relates to the wave nature of gravity:

- Wave speed and time delay of interaction
- Energy Flow
- Attenuation, Dispersion
- "How long would it take until we realize gravitationally if the moon suddenly would disappear?"





# **Our Gravity Project: History (2)**

Ab 1992: Start of work -> Dissertation of William Walker 1997 Coreferee Walter Kündig, UZH, expert in experimental gravity Referee JD

- **1997:** Preliminary Result:Very difficult experimentally"Does not make sense, near field, .."
- 1998: Work was abandoned, no funding, William Walker leaves the group"A project for the time before retirement!"

**2015:** First direct observation of gravity waves generated in outer space by black hole mergers using LIGO und Virgo - two international large scale projects, LIGO alone US\$395 million



# **Our gravity project: History (3)**

- 2018: Restart of our project in CLA
- 2019: Start of experiments in Furggels, a former Swiss army fortress
- March 2021: First successful fully characterized experiment for beam-beam configuration

#### Fully characterized means:

- amplitude and phase response
- distance behaviour,
- measure non gravitational crosstalk (mechanical, ... )
  - -> Gravitational constant, "Inverse square law", ..







# Our gravity project: History (3)

- April 2022: 1<sup>st</sup> Presentation at APS Meeting
- August 2022:

1<sup>st</sup> paper published in Nature Physics Huge response!

- December 2022: 2<sup>nd</sup> Paper submitted
  - In Review with Communications Physics
- April 2023: Presentation at APS Meeting
- Meeting Nr. 158!
- So far: 14 coworkers, mostly part time
- Minimal Budget, but much support from ETH and recently a foundation



# Gravity

- lat. gravitas: Weight
- Things with mass or energy are attracted towards one another
- One of the four fundamental forces in nature

| Forces                   | Range [m]          | Relative strength |
|--------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Gravitation              | $\infty$           | 1                 |
| Elektromagnetism         | $\infty$           | 10 <sup>36</sup>  |
| Weak Interaction force   | $< 10^{-18}$       | 10 <sup>25</sup>  |
| Strong Interaction force | $\approx 10^{-15}$ | 10 <sup>38</sup>  |

• Fifth Force?? (E. Fischbach, ~1990)

Wikipedia

# **History of Gravity**

### Antics, Orient

- Gravity as the reason for free fall
- Foundation for geocentric model of the world

### Kopernikus (1543)

- Also other celestial bodies exert gravity
- → Heliozentric model of the world
   Kepler (1609)
- Each body exerts gravity

## Galilei (beginning of 17th century)

• First empirical investigations on the free fall



Aristoteles (384 - 322 v. Chr.)



Johannes Kepler (1571 – 1630)





Galileo Galilei (1564 - 1642)

# History of Gravitation – Newton's theory of gravitation Isaac Newton (1687)

- First mathematical description
- G gravitational constant: Big G

G=6.674 30 x  $10^{-11}$  m<sup>3</sup> kg<sup>-1</sup> s<sup>-2</sup> relative standard uncertainty: 2.2 x  $10^{-5}$  (??)





Isaac Newton (1643 - 1727)

## Consequences of Newtonian Gravity

- The action of gravity is instantaneous
- Allows to model the motion of planets
- Foundations of classical mechanics

• 
$$g \approx \frac{Gm_e}{r_e^2} = 9.81 \frac{\mathrm{m}}{\mathrm{s}^2}$$



# History of Gravitation – Einstein's Theory of Relativity

### **Special Theory of Relativity SRT (1905)**

- Radiation has energy  $\rightarrow$  light has a virtual mass
- Nothing can be faster than the speed of light

## General Theory of Relativity GRT (1915)

- New model for gravitation
  - Gravitation is a geometric property of space and time

#### Consequences

- Gravitation has infinite range
- Gravitation cannot be shielded
- Existence of gravitational waves

$$E = mc^2$$



Albert Einstein (1879 – 1955)





# Summary

### **Physical Theories of Fundamental Interactions**

| Fundamentale Wechselwirkungen und ihre Beschreibungen<br>(Theorien in frühem Stadium der Entwicklung sind grau hinterlegt.) |  |                                   |  |                         |                                |  |  |
|---|--|-----------------------------------|--|-------------------------|--------------------------------|--|--|
|   | Starke Wechselwirkung                    | Elektromagnetische Wechselwirkung |  | Schwache Wechselwirkung | Gravitation                    |  |  |
| klassisch   |  | Elektrostatik                     | Magnetostatik                                      |                         | Newtonsches Gravitationsgesetz |  |  |
|   |  | Elektrodynamik                    |  |                         | Allgemeine Relativitätstheorie |  |  |
| quanten-<br>theoretisch   | Quantenchromodynamik<br>(Standardmodell) | Quantenelektrodynamik             |  | Fermi-Theorie           |                                |  |  |
|   |  |                                   | Elektroschwache Wechselwirkung<br>(Standardmodell) |                         | Quantengravitation (?)         |  |  |
|   | Große vereinheitlichte Theorie (?)       |                                   |  |                         |                                |  |  |
|   | Weltformel ("Theorie von Allem") (?)     |                                   |  |                         |                                |  |  |

#### Gravity separated from everything else!

A unified theory (theory of everything) would need to include Gravitation



# **Summary Theory of Gravity**

## **Quantum Theory**

- Everything has quantum property: Graviton?? (Hypothetical ...)
- Does not fit to GRT

## **Current State**

- Numerous modified theories based on GRT: Which one to take?
   e.g. Parametrized Post Newtonian Formalism for weak fields
- Many open questions regarding our understanding of the universe (cosmology)
  - dark matter
  - accelerating expansion of the universe
  - James Webb Telescope: Too big galaxies in the early universe?
- "Mystery of Gravity is deepening" with new G measurements (Physics World 2018)
- What can we learn from a lab experiment in the Near Field? ( $r << \lambda$ )

## **Measurement of Gravitation**

### Goal

- Determining the mass of planets (18. 20. century)
- Confirmation of physical theories (20. century up to now)

### **Problems**

- Very weak interaction and forces
- Strong influence of the force of the earth, tides or other nearby masses (constant in time)
- Hidden static masses?



# **Measurement of Gravitational Constant G**

### **Torsion Balance**

- Developed and used by Henry Cavendish (1798)
- How does it work? A dumbbell (m<sub>1</sub>) is rotated by masses m<sub>2</sub> measure the equilibrium rotation angle, wire acts as weak spring
  - **<u>Static</u>** Experiment (mHz regime)
- Many improvements
  - Thinner wire, smaller masses (Boys, 1894)
  - Time-of-swing (Eötvös, 1895)
  - Servo-controlled measurements (Michaelis, 1996)



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# **Static Measurement of Gravitational Coupling**

- Easy theoretical description
- More than 200 years of experience
- Flexible design
- State of the art measurement

### **Problems/Issues**

- Systematic errors
  - Influence of unknown static masses
  - Ground noise/Temperature instability
- Inaccessibility of dynamics!
- Why Dynamics:
  - Static masses not relevant
  - Wave nature of gravity:

Energy flow, Wave speed, Time delay of interaction, Attenuation (Shielding), Dispersion



Tiesinga, E., Mohr, P. J., Newell, D. B. & Taylor, B. N. CODATA recommended values of the fundamental physical constants: 2018. *Rev. Mod. Phys.* **93**, 025010 (2021).

# **Dynamic Measurement of Gravitational Coupling**

## Past research

- Sinsky, J. A. Generation and detection of dynamic Newtonian gravitational fields at 1660 cps. *Phys. Rev.* **167** (1968).
- Hirakawa, H., Tsubono, K. & Oide, K. Dynamical test of the law of gravitation. *Nature* **283** (1980).
- Walker, W. D. Gravitational interaction studies. Diss. ETH Zürich 12289 (1997).
- Astone, P. et al. Experimental study of the dynamic Newtonian field with a cryogenic gravitational wave antenna. *Eur. Phys. J. C.* (1998).
- Long, J. C. et al. Upper limits to submillimetre-range forces from extra spacetime dimensions. *Nature* **421** (2003).
- Liu Y. et al. Gravitational forces between nonclassical mechanical oscillators. *Phys. Rev. Applied* **15** (2021)
- Ross, M. P., et al. Initial results from the Ligo Newtonian calibrator. Physical Review D, **104**(8) (2021).
- mostly distance behavior
  - → No fully characterized lab experiment in frequency range > 1Hz

#### **Our Goal**

- fully-characterized **dynamic** experiment in the lab
- Investigation of gravitation at frequencies ~42Hz
   i.e. at black hole merger frequencies



Figure 2: Noise curves for a selection of gravitational-wave detectors as a function of frequency.

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# **Theory of Gravitational Coupling Between Resonators**

**Idea:** Periodic excitation force near or at resonance frequency ( $\omega_0$ ) of **detector** 



Varying distance  $d = d_0 + u_t \sin(\omega t)$ 

Single Degree of Freedom Oscillator (SDOF):

Amplitude at resonance:  $u_d = 2 \cdot \frac{Gm_t Q_d}{d_0^3 \omega_0^2} u_t$ 

#### **Experimental Realisation**

- + **Resonant amplification** (high  $Q_d \sim 10^4$ )
- + Decoupling from **static masses**
- + Commercial heterodyne laser interferometers
- + Make use of **dynamic measurement** principles

Lockin Amplifiers: (BW 3dB = 1.5 mHz) Long-term measurement (> 1h per frequency)

- + Noise free and temperature stable lab (VC-G)
- Theoretical description more complex
- Risk of transmission of non-gravitational forces
- **±** Amplitude scales with  $\frac{1}{\omega_0^2}$ !

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# **Experimental Realization**

 $u_d = 2 \cdot \frac{Gm_t Q_d}{d_0^3 \omega_0^2} u_t$ 



- Detector: High Q<sub>d</sub> (>10<sup>4</sup>) beam in first bending resonance suspended at nodes
   -> "low" frequencies at reasonable dimensions
- Transmitter: Need highly stable motion
  - (because of high Q of detector, BW = f/Q,  $T_{stationary} \sim Q T_{per}$ )
  - of heavy mass with maximal change of distance between mass elements
  - allows mechanical decoupling
  - at minimal distance
- Set up 1: Parallel beam as transmitter, excited near resonance,
  - suspended at nodes to minimize disturbances, and
  - working against an inertial mass -> internal force as excitation
- Setup 2: Two precisely balanced rotating bars synchronized to excitation frequency (f/2, f/4, ..)

- Setup 1: Two resonating beams at 42 Hz -



- Frequency Response Transmitter vs. Detector -

### **Q** Factor Design:

Detector beam: Q large -> amplification

Transmitter beam: medium Q

(simplifies tuning !)

#### Measurement

- Frequency sweep
- Time per frequency defined by:
  - Time constant transmitter
     Q = 300 → 2.5 sec
  - Time constant detector
     Q = 30000 → 250 sec
  - Time constant Lock-In 8<sup>th</sup> order lowpass → 500 sec
- -> Measurement time ~1hr.





- Experimental Setup -



## Raw data: Typical Lockin Signals vs. time





## Why high temperature stability important?

BW at Q=40000: ca. 1mHz

Temperature dependence of resonance frequency ->

To have a stable measurement point on the resonance curve We need

 $\alpha \Delta T \ll BW$ 

Eg.  $\Delta T$ =0.01°C ->  $\Delta f$ =0.18 BW

-> Furggels ideal:

High temperature stability Low mechanical noise



Resonance frequency vs. T for titanium detector beam

# **Modelling of Gravitational Coupling Between Resonators**

- Continuum Mechanics -

## **Continuum Mechanics (Euler Bernoulli Beam Model)**

1. Force between elements dm:

$$\boldsymbol{F}_{G}^{(\mathrm{d}\boldsymbol{m_{t}}-\mathrm{d}\boldsymbol{m_{d}})} = G \frac{\boldsymbol{r}}{\|\boldsymbol{r}\|^{3}} \mathrm{d}\boldsymbol{m_{t}} \mathrm{d}\boldsymbol{m_{d}} ; \ \boldsymbol{r} = \boldsymbol{r_{\mathrm{d}\boldsymbol{m_{d}}}} -$$

2. Force field as a function of one or several spatial variables

$$F_G(x_d, t) = G\rho_d \rho_t \int_{(V_t)} \int_{(A_d)} \frac{r}{\|r\|^3} dV_t dA_d$$

- time dependent (since *r* is changing with time), but **non-linear**
- Can be solved by numerical integration/FEM
- 3. Model of continuum vibration (detector)
  - Force field as excitation force
    - a) Time discrete simulation
    - b) Fourier series at  $\omega_0$ Finite elements + analytic







- Setup 1: Two resonating beams at 42 Hz -

## **Expected amplitudes**

- Mass transmitter beam  $m_t \approx 4 \text{ kg}$
- Resonance frequency:  $\approx 42 \text{ Hz}$
- Chamber pressure:  $\approx 1 \text{ mbar}$
- Detector's beam damping:  $Q_d \approx 35000$
- Excitation amplitude:  $u_t \approx 0.4 \text{ mm} \left(0.1 \frac{\text{m}}{\text{s}}\right)$
- Minimal beam distance:  $d_0 = 59 \text{ mm}$

Detector amplitude  $u_d \approx 7 \frac{\text{nm}}{\text{s}} (25 \text{ pm})$ 

#### Note: 1nm=0.000001mm, 1pm= 0.001nm

## **Velocity measurement**

- Laser Doppler vibrometry (3)
- Lock-in technique (BW 3dB = 1.5 mHz)
- Long-term measurement (30 frequencies,ca. 1h per frequency)
- Noise free lab (VC-G)

Resolution 
$$\approx 0.16 \frac{\text{nm}}{\text{s}} (0.6 \text{ pm})$$

# **Dynamic Measurement of Gravity – Data Evaluation**

#### Frequency Sweep (ca. 30 Frequencies, 30h)

- Extract Bending Motion *u*<sub>d</sub>
- Calculate transfer function  $\frac{u_d}{u_t}$
- Fit transfer function of SDOF system

• 
$$\frac{u_d}{u_t} = \frac{i\omega \cdot A_0 \cdot \frac{\omega_0}{Q}}{-\omega^2 + \frac{\omega_0}{Q} \cdot i\omega + \omega_0^2} \cdot e^{i\varphi_0} (+XT)$$
  
 $\rightarrow \omega_0, Q, A_0, \varphi_0$ 

• Theory yields *G* as a function of *d*  $A_0 \sim \frac{Gm_t Q_d}{d_0^2 \omega_0^2}$  at resonance



#### **Bending**

### Gravitational Coupling Between Resonators (Beam – Beam Configuration)

Distance variation (59 mm .. 120 mm)

- Distance behavior  $\sim \frac{1}{d_a^2}$
- Agreement with theory within 2-3%

For the **first time** we achieved

- Derivation of **G** from dynamic experiment at frequencies 10<sup>4</sup>x higher than in established, static experiments  $G = 6.825(75) \cdot 10^{-11} \frac{\text{m}^3}{\text{kg s}^2}$
- Quantify energy flow due to gravitation (10<sup>-20</sup> W at 59 mm)
- Results published in Nature Physics, 2022 incl. News and Views Article





# **Dynamic Gravity First Paper**

### **Publications**

- Brack et al. Dynamic measurement of gravitational coupling between resonating beams in the hertz regime. Nat. Phys. 18, 952–957 (2022). https://doi.org/10.1038/s41567-022-01642-8
- Rothleitner, C. Good vibrations. *Nat. Phys.* 18, 856–857 (2022). <u>https://doi.org/10.1038/s41567-022-01646-4</u>
- An unconventional strategy sizes up Newton's 'big G', Nature 607, 424 (2022) <u>https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-022-01911-9</u>
- Schirber, M. Bending under Big G. *Physics* 15, 121 (2022) <u>https://doi.org/10.1103/Physics.15.121</u>
- Plus numerous accompanying articles in media





- Setup 2: Two Rotating Bars Excite Bending Resonance -



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# Theory Excitation of Detector Beam by two Rotating Bars

Nonstandard moving load problem: Known from trains on bridges!

Non separable loading of partial differential equation Classical Book by L. Fryba: Vibrations of Solids and Structures under Moving Loads

#### Here:

Distributed loading Variable force distribution Variable speed of load Speed close to wave speed Periodic

Solve by normal mode expansion

Or by FEM

To yield stationary solution



- Setup 2: first results -

- Custom made motor synchronization ( $\Delta \phi < 0.01 \text{ deg}$ )
- Chamber pressure  $\approx 0.02$  mbar

maxon



# **Dynamic Gravity, Results for Rotating Bar Transmitters**

- Distance Dependency
  - $u_d \sim \frac{1}{r^5}$
- Determination of G
  - $G = 6.66(7) \cdot 10^{-11} \frac{\text{m}^3}{\text{kg s}^2}$
  - O.2% Deviation from CODATA
  - ~1% Accuracy
- Energy Flow
  - Up to 3.75 10<sup>-18</sup> J/s
  - 10<sup>22</sup> times greater than what is quoted in text books for gravitational *waves*
- In Review with Communications Physics



# 4. Current Efforts and Improvements

- 1. More gravitationally induced amplitude -> 20x20mm rotating W bars
- 2. Individual calibration of the laser measurement chains

*electrical calibration* feeding a known artificial carrier and Doppler frequency signal into the Laser demodulators and measuring the LIA outputs





## 3. Improved vibration isolation of DB from Transmitter motion:

3.1 Passive vibration isolation stage in detector chamber (Factor 5-7)



The detector beam inside the vacuum chamber is hanging from a T-plate structure of about 20kg, hanging on 4 springs



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# 3. Improved vibration isolation of DB from transmitter motion:

## 3.2 Active vibration minimization of transmitter chamber (Factor 2)



# 4. Neutron tomography at NEUTRA (PSI, Villigen, Switzerland)

- Transmittance through 28.3mm of W
  - 10<sup>-38</sup> for 150 keV Xrays
  - 0.015 for 25 meV neutrons
- Standard imaging set-up MIDI@NEUTRA beam line
- 30 µm Gadox (Tb-doped) scintillator screen
- High resolution tomography for 67mm end parts and Low resolution tomography for whole rod
- Mean sample-to-detector distance
   approximately 17mm

#### **Results**

The spatial resolution of the high-resolution and low resolution combined tomographies is < 100  $\mu$ m -> A void of this size corresponds to a mass ratio of 10<sup>-8</sup> for the 67mm of the transmitter bar closest to the detector

#### Bars can be modelled as homogeneous!



## 20 x 20 x 500mr Tungsten Rod

## **Conical Recess**

# 5. Improvement of Simulation of the Rotating Bars Experiment

- Experiment and Simulation validate each other
- Combining 3 Approaches
  - Analytical model and numerical integration
  - Commercial Finite Element model
  - Isogeometric (IGA) (FEM) model
- Used as reference for the computation of the gravity constant *G*
- Simulation needs to be highly accurate, i.e. orders of magnitude more accurate than the experiment:

Accuracy goal for velocity amplitude:  $\sim 0.1 \text{ ppm}$ 

### **3 Detector Beam Models for the Gravity Experiment**



# Some results: 20x20mm rotating bars (2,1,-1)

#### **Typical run:**

70 points on resonance curve (random) -> > 4 days

Per point we record 500 points in time / the last 200 are averaged

3 Detector beam lockin channels

7 accelerometer lockin channels (2 on DC, 5 on TC)

Temperatures, pressures

Jitter

Figure:

Raw data (~10hrs) at

- 3 Lockin Amplifiers measuring gravitation
- DC acceleration



# Some results: 20x20mm rotating bars (2,1,-1), April 2023

#### Complex Fit and Fit Results



Theory:

FEM/IGA Results:  $A/Q = 1.487 \ 10^{-12} \ m/s$ 

 $A/Q = 1.500 \ 10^{-12} \ m/s$ 

# $A/Q = 1.486 \ 10^{-12} \ m/s$

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1/2

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upper Cl

267.78247

6.9436e-08

1.4869e-12

7.6290e-10

46769

-0.0711

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unit

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m/s

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%

rad/sec

# **5. Conclusions and Outlook**

### Conclusion

- Improved dynamical gravity experiment at 42 Hz with full quantitative comparison between measurement and theory
- Current state:
  - Good agreement between theory and experiment with **deviation** ~ 0.1%
  - Uncertainty ~0.1%

(to be confirmed with full error analysis )

- Max. ~300 nm/sec for excitation with two rotating 2x2cm bars
- Neutron tomography characterization of samples (no holes of size >100µm)
- Mechanical crosstalk/signal ratio improved by more than 100x
- Improved FEM Modelling with 10<sup>-4</sup> accuracy

# **5. Conclusions and Outlook**

## Outlook

- Improve
  - Reduce temperature sensitivity by optimized detector beam
  - Distance measurement
  - Continuous improvements on all the aspects discussed
  - Double lock-in technique to relate the velocity only to c<sub>Light</sub> and frequency
- Investigate: It is getting more and more interesting!
  - G and distance curves
  - Gravitational shielding
  - Phase behaviour
  - Frequency influence on gravitation
  - Influence of other fields: Electric fields at different frequencies, quantum devices,...
  - Any further suggestions?
  - Collaborations?



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